

knew he had a wheat that yielded equally as well planted winter or spring. Did he have a good wheat? The chemists and experts at the station tested it and pronounced it a good quality of hard wheat. Hard wheat! That was sufficient. But Adams knew he must have patience for another year.

In the fall of 1906 the 1545 pounds were planted in fields by the side of the famous Blue Stem and Club wheat grown in that section. Watching their comparative growth, Mr. Adams picked on the same day green heads of Club wheat and green heads of his Alaska wheat, the latter so many times larger than the ordinary wheat that the Club wheat seemed hardly started. The farmer was jubilant. Then Nature took a hand, and hailstorms of the worst kind came, beating down the ordinary wheat until it was not fit to harvest. The farmer, discouraged, went out to his Alaska wheat fields and saw that the sturdy stems had partly withstood the storms, and he finally harvested 53,000 pounds of seed.

Now was the time to make his final test. He had enough for a test from winter grown. Taking this to the experimental station, he soon received a report which made him for the first time sure he had something worth giving to the public. The station chemist wrote:

"The kernels from the fall sown wheat were plump and sound and doubtless will grade No. 1. Judging from the chemical and physical condition of this sample, it will probably take rank with the best grade of Blue Stem for flour.

"The sample grown from spring sown wheat showed by chemical analysis a somewhat higher protein content (this being an indication of its probable strength for bread-making purposes). I am inclined to think that the wheat that you have here is the equal, if not the superior, of our Blue Stem for flour-making purposes. I should like to make a mill test whenever you can send me a sufficient quantity for that purpose."

These are the facts about the wonderful wheat of which the world will soon be talking. Farmers do not believe it; wheat speculators do not believe it; but those who have traveled to see it do believe it. Mr. Adams

had his fields surveyed and has absolute proof of the yield from each field. He has tried his wheat in other lands, and in some places it did better than in Idaho. Alabama raised wheat from it with leaves seven-eighths of an inch broad, growing like cornstalks.

As a last test, Mr. Adams sent single heads of wheat to other parts of the country where he had men he could trust to plant and ascertain the result. Reports are just coming to him, and he finds that in other States his Alaska wheat does better than on its home soil. In Alabama a head was planted December 31, was up January 30, waist-high April 1, with leaves seven-eighths of an inch broad, and July 7 was harvested. It showed to be hard wheat of a fine quality, and the one head yielded the same as the first head planted in Idaho.

Under ordinary soil conditions the new wheat will yield two hundred bushels to the acre, under extra conditions above that.

What will be the outcome? Had all America had Alaska wheat to seed this year, the American crop alone would have been five billions of bushels. Does that not mean a revolution in the wheat industry? Will the food of the poor become so cheap that there will be no famines? Or will farm property rise in value with the capacity for the yield? All this is conjecture, but these things are certain:

The wheat Alaska has given us will withstand hail if not too heavy.

It will withstand frost.

It grows hard wheat from fall sowing.

It yields up to 222 bushels to the acre.

It will grade up to No. 1 hard.

It will turn the vast areas in Missouri and the South and in the far West into hard wheat areas.

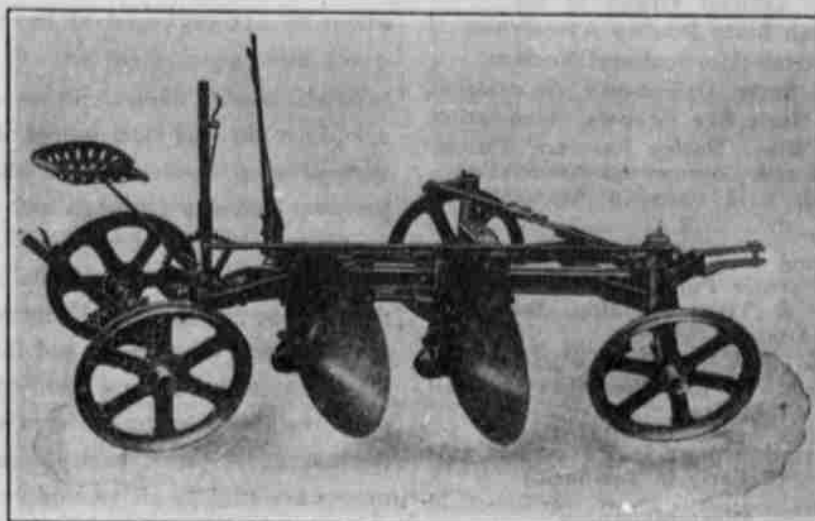
And, last and best of all, it will bring back wheat raising to the worn-out farms of the East where, with wheat yields two hundred bushels to the acre, farmers can afford to use manures and chemicals, and make a profit.

If all America could seed with the new wheat it would, at only fifty cents a bushel, add nearly two and a half billions of dollars to the wealth of the farmers every year.—Oscar F. G. Day in Saturday Evening Post.

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